GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5481
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2007
CRIME AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the crimes against women and children are increasing continuously in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of crimes against women and children during each of the last three years including current year, State-wise, Union Territory-wise, separately crime-wise particularly raps, murders and kidnappings;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to bring a comprehensive law to redress and prevent such crimes; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to taken by the Union Government to provide safety and security to women and children against such crimes and to secure them equal status with men?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) According to the data provided by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, 155553 incidents of crime against women were reported during 2005 showing a variation of 0.8% with reference to 2004. As regard crime against children, a total number of 14975 incidents were reported during 2005 showing a variation of 3.8% with reference to 2004.

(b) The increasing trend in the crime against women and children is due to various factors, such as, social, economic and cultural factors, illiteracy and poverty. The increasing trend is also contributed to by better reporting and awareness regarding crime.

(c) The detailed information is available on the website of National Crime Records Bureau, i.e., ncrb.nic.in.

(d)&(e) Apart from provisions of IPC relating to crime against women and children, the Ministry of Women & Child Development has strengthened the existing laws on crime against women and children. A legislation on Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 came into force on 26.10.2006. The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 has also been enacted. In addition, Bills on the Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Work Place and Offences against Children(Prevention) are under consideration. A proposal for amendment of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956 providing for more stringent penalties on traffickers is also under process.

This Ministry is also undertaking awareness generation, sensitization and advocacy programmes for various stakeholders such as police, judiciary, prosecutors, medical officers, PRI representatives etc., on various issues relating to crimes against women and children.

As law and order is a State subject, Ministry of Home Affairs from time to time issues advisories to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, requesting them to give more focussed attention on improving the criminal justice system, with a view to ensuring prevention of atrocities against all vulnerable sections of society, including women and children.